

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-12, 20 and 28-31 are amended. Support for these amendments can be found, at least, in Fig. 6 and on page 10 of Applicants' specification. No new matter is added.

Claims 5-12, 16-20 and 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for reciting non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 5-12, 16-20 and 28-31, as amended, recite statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-12, 16-20 and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0288113 to Saunders et al. ("Saunders") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,218 to Nagasaka ("Nagasaka"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12, as amended, recite a "preprocessing unit extracts a plurality of static image data and each static image data being represented with a variable size corresponding to scenes in the image data having variable time width for the portion of video data represented in the scene, the variable size of each static image data being proportional to the time width of the corresponding scene." Nagasaka does not disclose or suggest these features.

Using the rejection of claim 1 for illustrative purposes, Nagasaka discloses a method for presenting information of a recorded television program for allowing the user to retrieve content composition. See Abstract of Nagasaka. Nagasaka discloses a display area 700 having recording time points denoted by a reference numeral 702 that are displayed at a predetermined time interval, starting from a record starting time point. See Fig. 7 and col. 12, lines 47-52 of Nagasaka.

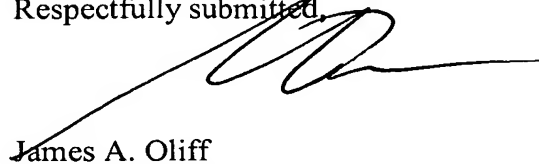
As shown in Fig. 7, each predetermined time interval can have a variable number of shot-representative pictures for a given time interval. See Fig. 7 of Nagasaka. However, Nagasaka only collects a variable number of shot-representative pictures, and does not provide a variable size for the pictures corresponding to the length of time each scene represents.

By contrast, claim 1 recites a preprocessing unit that "extracts a plurality of static image data and each static image data being represented with a variable size corresponding to scenes in the image data having variable time width for the portion of video data represented in the scene, the variable size of each static image data being proportional to the time width of the corresponding scene." Nagasaka does not disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1, nor does it disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features of claims 2 and 4-12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-12, and claims 3 and 13-30 depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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